

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 HEW-04 AGRE-00 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 FDRE-00 /095 W  
-----040834 301518Z /53

P R 290755Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6843  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOR DEPARTMENT AND AID  
NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SWEL, MZ  
SUBJECT: FLOODING WORSENS ALONG ZAMBEZI

REF: (A) MAPUTO 0299; (B) MAPUTO 0332

1. SUMMARY: FLOODING ALONG ZAMBEZI HAS WORSENERED AND SITUA-  
TION IS BECOMING MAJOR PROBLEM. DEATH TOLL HAS JUMPED FROM  
TWO TO FORTY-FOUR. CROP DAMAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND LARGE  
AREAS OF SENA SUGAR ESTATES ARE THREATENED. GOVERNMENT HAS  
STILL NOT REQUESTED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, BUT IF SITUATION CON-  
TINUES TO DETERIORATE IT MAY BE FORCED TO DO SO. FLOOD DAM-  
AGE WILL, NEVERTHELESS, GREATLY INCREASE MOZAMBIQUE'S IMPORT-  
ED FOOD REQUIREMENTS. DEPT. AND USAID MAY WISH TO TAKE THIS  
EMERGENCY SITUATION INTO CONSIDERATION IN REVIEWING EMBASSY'S  
RECENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE.  
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END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS MARCH 25-27 REPORTS THAT FLOODING ALONG  
ZAMBEZI HAS SERIOUSLY WORSENERED. FLOODING IS DUE IN PART  
TO LATE TORRENTIAL RAINS IN NORTHWESTERN MOZAMBIQUE,  
OPENING OF FLOOD GATES AT CABORA BASSA AND HEAVY FLOW OF  
WATER INTO ZAMBEZI FROM ITS NUMEROUS TRIBUTARIES. PRESS

ALSO INDICATES THAT HEAVY RAINFALLS IN EASTERN ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA AND OPENING OF FLOOD GATES AT KARIBA HAVE EXACERBATED THE FLOODING IN CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE.

3. NUMBER OF FATALITIES DUE TO DROWNING HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN PAST SEVEN DAYS. LAST WEEK GOVERNMENT REPORTED ONLY TWO CONFIRMED DEATHS. THAT FIGURE HAS NOW JUMPED TO FORTY-FOUR WITH MORE EXPECTED BEFORE HIGH WATER MARK OF THE FLOOD REACHES THE SEA AND THE RIVER STARTS TO SUBSIDE. NUMBER OF PEOPLE DISLOCATED BY THE FLOODS IS NOW AROUND 200,000.

4. CROP DAMAGE HAS BEEN QUITE EXTENSIVE IN PROVINCES OF TETE, ZAMBEZI AND SOFALA. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH HAS BEEN DAMAGED, IN SOFALA OVER TWO THOUSANDS HECTRES OF COTTON HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AND THOUSANDS OF HECTRES OF RICE AND MAIZE DESTROYED. WHILE THE LOSSES TO MOZAMBIQUE'S LARGE SUGAR CROP HAS THUS FAR BEEN MINIMAL, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ZAMBEZI FLOOD WATERS WILL DESTROY THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF SUGAR AT THE LUABO, THE MAIN ESTATE OF THE SENA SUGAR COMPANY. LUABO IS LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN BANKS OF THE ZAMBEZI RIVER, SOME SEVENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS FROM WHERE THE RIVER ENTERS THE SEA. THE ZAMBEZI HAS NOT CRESTED IN THAT AREA YET.

5. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE AREA. A NUMBER OF ROADS, BRIDGES AND AT LEAST ONE RAIL LINE HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OR WASHED AWAY BY THE RIVER.

6. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ASKED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TO COPE WITH THE CURRENT EMERGENCY. HOWEVER, IF THE SITUATION WORSENS, IT MAY BE FORCED TO DO SO. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT SEEKS OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AS IT HAS DONE IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE DESTRUCTION OF VAST AMOUNTS OF FOOD CROPS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY WILL EXACERBATE THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SHORTAGES. THE POTENTIAL DESTRUCTION OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF SUGAR ON THE SENA ESTATES WOULD ALSO REDUCE SUGAR EXPORTS AND FOREIGN EARNINGS IN THAT SECTOR. IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO FOOD CROPS DEPT. AND AID MAY WISH TO TAKE THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION INTO CONSIDERATION IN REVIEWING EMBASSY'S RECENT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD AID TO MOZAMBIQUE (SEE MAPUTO 0299).  
DE PREE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CROP DESTRUCTION, FLOODS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780138-0321  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 027e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MAPUTO 299, 78 MAPUTO 332  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3171306  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FLOODING WORSENS ALONG ZAMBEZI  
**TAGS:** SWEL, MZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/027e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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